

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 287

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Australian Shepherd Club of America's 2015 National Specialty Show.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should welcome those national organizations that travel to the Volunteer State to hold their annual events; and

WHEREAS, the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) is one such organization that will be holding its 2015 National Specialty Show at the Walking Horse Celebration's Calsonic Arena in Shelbyville, October 10–17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, established in 1957, the ASCA is the parent club for the Australian shepherd dog breed, maintaining breed standards and providing programs in agility, conformation, obedience, rally, stockdog, and tracking; and

WHEREAS, the ASCA is the largest single-breed dog registry in North America and has more than 100 affiliate clubs internationally that conduct sanctioned trials for ASCA-registered Australian shepherds; and

WHEREAS, the Australian shepherd is the only working dog breed developed in America; their bloodline can be traced back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the western United States, where Basque shepherds and their blue dogs came to represent shepherding; and

WHEREAS, in addition to herding sheep, the Australian shepherd also excels as a cattle dog, making the breed ideal for farm and ranch operations, for which it is still widely used today; and

WHEREAS, the breed has evolved throughout the years from livestock herding to more diverse occupations, including search and rescue, drug detection, therapy, and hearing and handicap assistance work; and

WHEREAS, a versatile breed, the Australian shepherd's working history is tested in a number of ASCA trial competitions in agility, conformation, obedience, rally, stock, and tracking trials; a number of individual dogs within the breed excel in all of the trial categories and compete for the Most Versatile Australian Shepherd award, which is one of the most popular competitions at the national event; and

WHEREAS, this year, the ASCA will host its national event in Tennessee for the first time and will include finals for six categories, including stockdog, junior handling, agility, conformation, obedience, and rally trials; and

WHEREAS, this intelligent and loyal dog breed is the epitome of all dog breeds and the ASCA should be recognized for its work in preserving breed standards and providing opportunities to owners of Australian shepherds; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby welcome the Australian Shepherd Club of America's 2015 National Specialty Show to the State of Tennessee, honor and commend this outstanding organization for its unending contributions to the Australian shepherd breed, and extend to its members our best wishes for every continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.